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Montana reclaims ski title

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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Montana reclaims ski title" (1971).
University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present. 24678.
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MONTANA RECLAIMS
SKI TITLE

sports

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MISSOULA---



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It was hip-and-tuck for awhile, but I knew that when we were only a couple of points behind going into the jumping competition, the outcome looked pretty good," Grizzly ski coach Rusty Lyons said Monday after the University of Montana skiers took their second straight Big Sky ski title.

Montana made a clean one-two-three sweep in the jumping, the final competition, Saturday to come from behind and whip Montana State for the title. The Grizzlies were behind 282.5 to 280.4 after Friday's competition.

Montana also won the NCAA Northwest Qualifying meet with a 377.3 total. Montana State finished second in both meets while Weber finished third in the Big Sky and the University of Washington third in the NCAA meet. Montana, Montana State and Washington qualified teams for the NCAA finals at Leads, S.D., March 4-6 and the top three finishers from each event also advance to the nationals.

While Montana won the team title, two Grizzly defending champions lost their specialties. Idaho's Curt Brandon defeated Tom Zachary in the downhill and Montana State's Steve Settle took Gary Keltz in the cross country. Zachary and Keltz finished second.

Montana freshman Jon Williamson scratched from the cross country event, due to a bout with the flu, but came back strong in the jumping to win the Big Sky title. Not only did Williamson come back strong, but alpinist Zachary leaped to a second place finish while Alan Anderson finished third. Keltz finished seventh in the event.

Montana won three of four event titles losing only the slalom crown to Montana State. The Grizzlies scored a perfect 100% in the jumping, 97.4 in the downhill and 94.2 in the cross country.

Lyons said he was proud of the team's poise and determination to win the crown. "After the first couple of days I was ready to give up, but they came back and proved they were champions."

Lyons singled out Bob Gordon especially for having a fine conference meet. The Missoula skier finished fifth in the downhill and fifth in the slalom. "Bob skied the two best races of his career at Montana at Ogden," Lyons said.

The ~~Montana~~ coach also had praise for freshman Claus Urbye who at the last minute substituted for Williamson in the cross country and finished seventh. "His performance enabled us to win the cross country ~~team~~ team," Lyons said.

Lyons concluded that he expects his skiers to do much better at the NCAA meet. "We have not skied up to our potential yet," he said.

Montana finishers in the Big Sky:

<u>Downhill</u>	<u>Slalom</u>	<u>Cross Country</u>	<u>Jumping</u>
2. Tom Zachary	5. Bob Gordon	2. Gary Keltz	1. Jon Williams
5. Bob Gordon	7. Tom Zachary	5. Mike Dillon	2. Tom Zachary
8. John Moran	9. Craig Menteer	7. Claus Urbye	3. Alan Anderson
13. Kenn Hugos	10. Mike Dillon	10. Alan Anderson	7. Gary Keltz
14. Craig Menteer	16. Claus Urbye		
	17. John Moran		
	20. Kenn Hugos		